

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2235

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FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, DA

SUBJ: DANISH TV INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER

SUMMARY: DANISH FONMIN K B ANDERSEN HAS SENT ME LETTER IN SUPPORT OF LONG-STANDING DANISH TV REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY. LETTER STRESSES CONNECTION WITH FORTHCOMING VISIT OF QUEEN TO U.S. AND BICENTENNIAL. I WOULD HOPE, THAT IF POSSIBLE, INTERVIEW BE GRANTED TO PERMIT TELECAST PRIOR TO QUEEN'S DEPARTURE FOR U.S. IN MAY. END SUMMARY

1. FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW, DANISH TV HAS SOUGHT AN OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW SECRETARY. TOWARD THAT END, CONTACTS WERE MADE IN WASHINGTON AS WELL AS THROUGH THIS EMBASSY. THIS PROJECT SO FAR HAS NOT BEEN REALIZED, NOT FOR REASONS OF PRINCIPLE, BUT OF SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES.

2. DENMARK'S EFFORTS TO HELP CELEBRATE THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL HAVE SWUNG INTO HIGH GEAR DURING THE PAST MONTHS, AND THE NATION IS NOW ACTIVELY PREPARING FOR AN ELABORATE PROGRAM CULMINATING IN THE VISIT OF QUEEN MARGRETHE TO THE U.S. IN MAY. TV HAS, THEREFORE, RENEWED ITS APPLICATION TO OBTAIN INTERVIEW WITH DR. KISSINGER.

3. DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT TO COPENHAGEN ON
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JANUARY 20, 1976, FONMIN ANDERSEN HANDED SECRETARY

LETTER FROM DANISH TV ON THIS SUBJECT AND ANDERSEN EXPRESSED HOPE SECRETARY COULD ACQUIESCE IN REQUEST. I UNDERSTAND A COPY OF THAT LETTER WAS ALSO GIVEN TO BOB FUNSETH.

4. FOLLOWING IS ACTUAL TEXT OF LETTER IN ENGLISH I RECEIVED FROM DANISH FONMIN ANDERSEN ON FEBRUARY 16, WHICH REITERATES REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW:

5. "DURING THE VISIT BY YOUR SECRETARY OF STATE ON JANUARY 20, 1976, I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAND HIM A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE TV-PROGRAMME "AKTUEL", MR. OLE SIPPEL, IN WHICH HE REQUESTED AN INTERVIEW WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE SAME FORMAT AS THE AMERICAN PROGRAMME "MEET THE PRESS". I ACCOMPANIED THIS LETTER WITH MY OWN RECOMMENDATIONS AS I AM QUITE SURE THAT AN INTERVIEW OF THE SAID NATURE WOULD FACILITATE THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

6. "THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER IS TO RENEW MY SUPPORT FOR THE REQUEST BASED ON HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN MAY AND THE VARIOUS DANISH ARRANGEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE BICENTENNIAL.

7. "THE EUROPEAN INTEREST IN THE SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON CURRENT AFFAIRS IS OF SUCH MAGNITUDE THAT AN INTERVIEW BY A PROFESSIONAL DANISH PANEL UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE TRANSMITTED NOT ONLY BY THE SCANDINAVIAN NETWORKS, BUT ALSO BY SEVERAL EUROPEAN TV-COMPANIES.

8. "MAY I ADD FOR THE SAKE OF GOOD ORDER THAT PRESIDENT SADAT OF EGYPT, PRIME MINISTER RABIN OF ISRAEL, CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI OF INDIA AND PRIME MINISTER DINDEMANS OF BELGIUM ARE AMONG THOSE PROMINENT LEADERS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED A SIMILAR INVITATION FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE PROGRAMME "AKTUEL".
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9. "A COPY OF THE LETTER WHICH I GAVE TO DR. KISSINGER WAS AT THE SAME TIME HANDED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS SPOKESMAN, MR. ROBERT FUNSETH, BY THE HEAD OF THE PRESS AND CULTURAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

10. "I HOPE, MR. AMBASSADOR, THAT YOU WILL BE

ABLE TO SUPPORT THIS REQUEST AS I FEEL THAT THE INTERVIEW WITH YOUR SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD PROVIDE A VERY FITTING OPENING FOR HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE OTHER DANISH ARRANGEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE BICENTENNIAL."

11. COMMENT: I AM AFMILIAR WITH PROPOSED INTERVIEWER AND KNOW HIM TO BE THOROUGHLY COMPETENT. HE INDICATED HE WOULD MEET SECRETARY ANY TIME, ANY PLACE. FORMAT OF THE INTERVIEW IS FLEXIBLE, ACCORDING TO SECRETARY'S PREFERENCE.

12. PROGRAM WOULD NOT BE PROJECTED ONLY ON DANISH TV, BUT WOULD PROBABLY ALSO BE SHOWN BY OTHER EUROPEAN NETWORKS THROUGH EUROVISION MACHINERY. IN VIEW OF STRONG DANISH GOVERNMENT INTEREST AND PLANNED TIE-IN WITH QUEEN'S BICENTENNIAL TRIP TO U.S., I WOULD HOPE THAT FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO DANISH REQUEST.
DEAN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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